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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/072,805	02/08/2002	Hiroyoshi Kazumori	116-020069	3656

7590 04/23/2003

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

GURZO, PAUL M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2881	

DATE MAILED: 04/23/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Offic Action Summary	Application N .	Applicant(s)
	10/072,805	KAZUMORI, HIROYOSHI
	Examiner Paul Gurzo	Art Unit 2881

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Peri d for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 15 May 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ . |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>5</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ose et al. (6,043,491), and further in view of Takaoka et al. (6,335,530).

Regarding claims 1 and 11, 491 teaches a scanning electron microscope and a method of detecting electrons having an objective lens (106) that is viewed to have inner and outer polepieces. A magnetic field is generated and the objective lens acts to focus the electron beam onto the specimen (107) (col. 4, lines 42-53). A negative (retarding) voltage is applied to the specimen (col. 4, lines 39-41), which will obviously decelerate the electron beam, a conversion electrode (113) is provided and it is an obvious matter of placement to place this electrode in the desired location. Further, the secondary electrons are guided to an electron detector (121) for detection (col. 4, lines 15-41 and Fig. 1). It is obvious that the electrons are confined by the magnetic lens field, and that the electrons will move into a location where the magnetic lens field is weak.

491 does not explicitly teach the desired location of the detector, but 530 depicts, in Fig. 8, the claimed inner polepiece (3a) and outer polepiece (3b) as well as the secondary electron detector (2) mounted outside the inner polepiece (3a) to detect the secondary electrons (col. 3, lines 21-37 and Fig. 8). They teach the appropriate application of the desired magnetic field, and

it is obvious that the inner polepiece can have a first opening because this opening is merely used for increased symmetry about the axis, and the prior art clearly depicts the needed symmetry.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to position the detector outside the inner polepiece because this will lead to efficient detection and lead to an accurate secondary electron image.

Regarding claims 2-6 and 8-10, it is obvious that the electrode can be cylindrical and can be provided with the desired openings in rotational symmetry about the axis. Further, 491 teaches the application of a potential to the electrodes (111 and 112) and these electrodes will act as conversion electrodes and teaches on the claimed split into two parts (col. 5, lines 1-10). The exact placement of the electrodes is considered obvious, and it is known that the application of the potential will attract the secondary electrons and that the electrode is coated with the appropriate material.

Regarding claim 7, 491 teaches that the voltage applied to the specimen is 2.5 kV (col. 6, line 58), which is within the claimed range.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

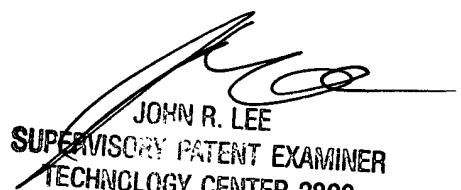
Otaka et al. (5,412,209)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Gurzo whose telephone number is (703) 306-0532. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thurs. 7:30 - 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Lee can be reached on (703) 308-4116. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9318 for regular communications and (703) 872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

PMG
April 8, 2003


JOHN R. LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800